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Sermon outline for *Why Should I Give to the Lord and His Cause?*

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WHY SHOULD I GIVE TO THE LORD AND HIS CAUSE?

Scripture Reading: Exodus 25:1-2; 35:20-21; 36:5-7

"And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they take for me an offering: of every man whose heart maketh him willing ye shall take my offering."

"And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and brought Jehovah's offering, for all the service thereof, and for the holy garments."

...And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which Jehovah commanded to make. And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. For the people were restrained from bringings. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much."

Introduction

I. Preaching on the subject of our liberality is often a most neglected subject.

A. It is sometimes neglected because it is such an unpopular theme.

B. Sometimes it is neglected because the preacher can not approach it honestly.

C. It is neglected because it is such a misunderstood subject. But it is my firm conviction that when God's people truly understand, they will in the matter of giving always do as did the Israelites in the free will offering of the tabernacle. They gave willingly, they gave freely, they gave apply!

DISCUSSION

I. What are some of the reasons for the liberality of God's people?

A. We give because it is a commandment of the the Lord

1. I Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I gave order to ~~the~~ churches of Galatia, so also do ye. Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come." II Cor. 9:7 "let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart; not grudgingly, ~~or~~ necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

2. Because a failure to give makes one covetous and a covetous man is an idolater and an idolater cannot be saved! Eph. 5:5 "For this ye know of a surety, that no fornicator, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

B. We give because we become like that which we worship and the greatest giver of all is God.

1. John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life."

2. Acts 17:24-26

"The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation.."

3. James 1:17

"Every good gift and ev ry perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, whith whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning."

C. We give because in giving we are heeding Paul's injunction to "Imitate Christ".

1. II Cor. 8:9

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich."

2. Phil. 2:5

"Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross."

D. We give because the returns are great.

1. Mal. 3:7-12

"From the days of your fathers ye have turned aside from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith Jehovah of hosts. But ye say, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with the curse; for ye rob me, even this whole nation. Bring ye the whole tithe into the store-house, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith Jehovah of hosts. And all nations shall call you happy; for ye shall be a delightful land, saith Jehovah of hosts."

2. II Cor. 9:10-11

"And he that supplieth seed to the sower and bread for food, shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness; ye being enriched in everything unto all liberality, which worketh through us thanksgiving to God."

3. Luke 6:38

"give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again."

D. We give because in so doing we have fellowship with both God and man.

1. Gal. 6:6-10

"But let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived: God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith."

2. The Peril of inactive Funds. James 5:1-6

"Come now, ye rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver are rusted; and their rust shall be for a testimony against you, and shall eat your flesh as fire. Ye have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold the hire of the laborers who mowed your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth out; and the cries of them that reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived delicately on the earth, and taken your pleasure; ye have nourished your hearts in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned, ye have killed the righteous one; he doth not resist you."

(1). But says one: "Preacher I am not a rich man ! No? Be careful. This is most deceptive. No one thinks of himself as rich! To the jobless, a man who make a good salary is rich. To the 10,000 a year man the 50,000 a year man is rich. To the 50,000 man the 500,000 and on and on. But remember God requires it as a man has it and on no other basis."

God only expects in keeping with our ability. No more.

II Cor. 8:11-12

"But now complete the doing also; that as there was the readiness to will, so there may be the completion also out of your ability. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according as a man hath, not according as he hath not."

His bill
\$10,000

Example of Mayo Clinic and Railroad Executive. But \$75M Salary.

E. We give because giving is essential to living!

Many a Christian has died of spiritual heart failure due to a contraction of the wallet!

Nature furnishes us some classic examples. When bees get too much honey they die!

The example of the dead sea.

"There is a sea which, day by day,

Receives the rippling rills

And streams that spring from wells of God,

Or falls from cedared hills;

But what it thus receives, it gives

With glad, unsparing hand,

And a stream more wide, with a deeper tide,

Pours out to a lower land.

But doth it lose by giving? Nay,

Its shores and beauty see--

The life and health and fruitful wealth

Of Galilee

There is a sea which, day by day,

Receives a deeper tide,

And all its store it keeps, nor gives

To shore nor sea beside;

What gains it grasping greed? Behold

Barrenness around its shore,

The fruits of lust, but apples of dust,

Rotten from rind to core;

Its Jordan water turned to brine,

Lies heavy as molten lead,

And its dreadful name doth ever proclaim

That sea is DEAD."

Every life is like one of the other of the seas.

F. We give because a failure to do so means disaster.

The Rich Fool Luke 12:15-21

"And he said unto them, Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he reasoned within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have not where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods, abide up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry. But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The Rich Young Ruler Luke 18:18-25

"And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, even God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor thy father and mother. And he said, All these things have I observed from my youth up. And when Jesus heard it, he said unto him, One thing thou lackest yet: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. But when he heard these things, he became exceeding sorrowful; for he was very rich. And Jesus seeing him said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to enter in through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Out of this life I shall never take
Things of silver and God I make;
All that I cherish and hoard away,
After I leave, on this earth must stay.
Though I have toiled for a painting rare
To hang on the wall, I must leave it there
Though I call it mine and boast its worth
I must give it up when I leave this earth.
Allthat I gather and all that I keep
I must leave behind when I fall asleep
And I often wonder what I shall own
In that other life, when I pass alone.
What shall they find and what will they see
In the soul that answers to the call of me?
Shall the great judge learn, when my task is
 through
That my spirit has gathered some riches too?
Or shall at last be mine to find
That all I've worked for I've left behind?

All that Spent I had

All I saved I lost

All I Gave I have

Save you money when you are young
And when you are old you can
Buy the things you can't
enjoy.

Hobbs 1-6-63

Altus L-34-73

Lawton 1-17-82

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